

What is claimed is:

 A television set-top terminal, comprising: a computer readable medium having computer program code; and

means for executing said computer program code to implement an Application Programming Interface (API) wherein:

application data which defines applications is recovered at the terminal according to locators associated with the applications;

the applications are registered and installed at the terminal;

the API enables running and subsequent stopping of the applications; and

the API enables pausing of the applications once they are running, and subsequent resuming of the applications.

- 2. The terminal of claim 1, wherein: a user is notified of the presence of the applications after registration and installation thereof.
- 3. The terminal of claim 1, wherein: said API enables the retrieval of the applications as downloadable software applications.
- 4. The terminal of claim 1, wherein: said API enables the retrieval of the applications as broadcast software applications.



- 5. The terminal of claim 1, wherein: said API is independent of an operating system and hardware of the terminal.
- 6. A television set-top terminal, comprising: a computer readable medium having computer program code; and

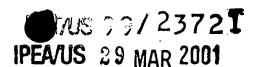
means for executing said computer program code to implement an Application Programming Interface (API) wherein:

application data which defines applications is recovered at the terminal according to locators associated with the applications;

the applications are registered and installed at the terminal; and

the API enables particular ones of the applications to advertise their respective states to other applications.

- 7. The terminal of claim 6, wherein:
 a user is notified of the presence of the
 applications after registration and installation
 thereof.
- 8. The terminal of claim 6, wherein: said API provides an ITU-T X.731-based mechanism for monitoring and controlling the applications.



- 9. The terminal of claim 6, wherein: said API enables at least one of the other applications to access the advertised state of at least one of the particular advertising applications.
- 10. The terminal of claim 6, wherein: said API enables retrieval of version information associated with the applications.
- 11. A television set-top terminal, comprising: a computer readable medium having computer program code; and

means for executing said computer program code to implement an Application Programming Interface (API) wherein:

application data which defines applications is recovered at the terminal according to locators associated with the applications;

the applications are registered and installed at the terminal; and

said locator is in the form of a Uniform Resource Locator (URL).

- 12. The terminal of claim 6, wherein: said API enables verification of the integrity of the applications.
- 13. A television set-top terminal, comprising: a computer readable medium having computer program code; and

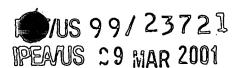
means for executing said computer program code to implement an Application Programming Interface (API) wherein:

application data which defines applications is recovered at the terminal according to locators associated with the applications;

the applications are registered and installed at the terminal; and

the API enables validation of the suitability of the applications for the terminal.

- 14. The terminal of claim 6, wherein: said API enables administrative locking and unlocking of the applications.
- 15. The terminal of claim 6, wherein: said API enables particular ones of the applications to advertise respective alarm statuses thereof to other ones of the applications.
- 16. The terminal of claim 6, wherein: said API enables particular ones of the applications to advertise respective availability statuses thereof to other ones of the applications.
- 17. The terminal of claim 6, wherein: said API enables particular ones of the applications to advertise respective procedural statuses thereof to other ones of the applications.



- 18. The terminal of claim 6, wherein: said API enables particular ones of the applications to advertise respective operational states thereof to other ones of the applications.
- 19. The terminal of claim 6, wherein: said API enables particular ones of the applications to advertise respective administrative states thereof to other ones of the applications.
- 20. The terminal of claim 6, wherein: said API enables particular ones of the applications to advertise respective usage states thereof to other ones of the applications.
- 21. A method for implementing a software architecture for a television set-top terminal, comprising the steps of:

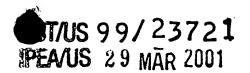
providing a computer readable medium having computer program code; and

executing said computer program code to implement an Application Programming Interface (API) to:

recover application data which defines applications at the terminal according to a locator associated with the application data;

register and install the applications at the terminal;

enable running and subsequent stopping of the applications; and



enable pausing of the applications once they are running, and subsequent resuming of the applications.

- 22. The method of claim 21, wherein a user is notified of the presence of the applications after registration and installation thereof.
- 23. A method for implementing a software architecture for a television set-top terminal, comprising the steps of:

providing a computer readable medium having computer program code; and

executing said computer program code to implement an Application Programming Interface (API) to:

recover application data which defines applications at the terminal according to a locator associated with the application data;

register and install the applications at the terminal; and

enable particular ones of the applications to advertise their respective states to other applications.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein a user is notified of the presence of the applications after registration and installation thereof.